State Tourism Corporations

1364. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states which have now established State Tourism Corporations;

(b) whether such Corporations are functioning in public or private sector;

(c) the number of successful Corporation now in the country with names and functions; and

(d) the measures taken up for establishing Tourism Corporations in the North-East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) State Tourism Corporation have been set up by all the states except some like Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.

(b) to (d) State Tourism Corporations are set up and managed by the respective State Governments.

Inter-State River Water Dispute

1365. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Inter-State River Water disputes are pending for settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress as on date;

(c) the date of which the disputes are likely to be settled; and

(d) the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Two Inter-State River Water Disputes viz. Ravi-Bias Water Dispute and Cauvery Water Disputes were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 (ISWD

Act, 1956) for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi & Bias Waters Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Partly States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991.

There is no time frame given to the Tribunals to settle the disputes.

Rise in the Mercury Level in Ground Water

1366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Environmental of certain States revealing alarming rise in the mercury levels in the ground water due to poisonous industrial effluent directly released into the ground causing serious health hazard's and the likely severe water crisis in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the revelations made in the Survey; and

(c) if so, what strategy is contemplated by Government to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution are as follows:—

(i) The Central Government has set up Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water management and development.

(ii) Mass awareness and education programme have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilisation, health, hygiene and sanitation.